President's reply.—The question of opening classes VIII and IX in the Kattur and Shertallai Vernacular Middle Schools will be considered.

As regards the establishment of an English Middle School at Mararikkulam, the policy of the Government is not to open fresh departmental schools. If the site and buildings required are got ready by the people, and if they run the school as a private concern, Government will recognise it and award grant-in-aid under the Education Code.

131. Educational Concessions to Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. Parameswaran Narayanan Bhattatiri (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) said that three special schools for Malayala Brahmins were opened at Kulakkada, Kumaranallur and Tiruvalla with a view to encourage English education among the members of that community and funds for their maintenance and upkeep were transferred from the endowments originally made for the study of Vedas. One school at Tiruvalla was closed down for lack of pupils. Almost the same fate had befallen the Kumaranallur school. In regard to the school, at Kulakkada a large amount was being spent, and it must be said that the strength of the school did not warrant such a large expenditure of money. A sum of Rs. 800 was spent on the Tiruvalla school and over Rs. 1,000 on the Kumaranallur school, while the annual expenditure on the Kulakkada school was over Rs. 3,000. All the same, the amount of interest evinced by the community was not proportionate to the huge sum spent on the school, although there was decrease in the number of school-pupils. In view of the fact that the expenses of those special schools were met out of the funds for the teaching of Vedas and that those funds came from real Malayala Brahmins, it was highly desirable that the schools should be confined to them. Lastly, the Member represented that the teaching in the Veda Section of His Highness the Maha Raja's Sanskrit College should be conducted according to Malabar *âchâras*. If arrangements could be made for the teaching of the Vedas on that basis in any important temple in a Devaswom group, and for the candidates being examined by a committee of experts and certificates of merits issued, the young men holding such certificates could be employed as Santis, etc., in the temples, which would go a long way towards the improvement of places of Hindu public worship.

President's reply.—Your suggestions relating to the Kulakkada and Kumaranallur schools and the Veda Patasala at Trivandrum will receive careful consideration at the hands of the Government.

132. Educational concessions to Ezhavas.

Mr. K. Padmanabhan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) detailed the circumstances under which English began to be studied by the different communities and spoke about the advantage which communities other than Ezhavas enjoyed for several decades in the past. Till about 12 years ago Ezhavas could not secure admission into any school. As a result of the educational advantages enjoyed by the Brahmin, Nair and Christian communities for the past 80 years, those sections of His Highness' subjects had made considerable advance in material prosperity. While the numerical strength of Nairs and Ezhavas was about the same, the percentage of literacy among Nairs was 40, while that among Ezhavas was only 23. According to the figures of 1098 the number of Nair pupils in English schools was 11,405, while that of Ezhava pupils was only 3,865. Even the present educational facilities, such as they were, were the outcome of the sympathy evinced by His Highness the Maha Raja towards their aspirations and of the generous policy pursued by His Highness' trusted ministers from Mr. V. P. Madhava Row C. I. E. downwards. He then said that the references made by some non-official members in the Legislative Council to the award of half-fee concessions to Ezhavas had caused pain to the members of his community. The members of the three forward communities referred to above had enjoyed the benefits of the earlier days, and it was, therefore, a source of disappointment to them to hear such discouraging opinions expressed at a time when some tangible encouragement was being shown them. Even with the enjoyment of half-fee concessions it would take some years for Ezhavas to attain a position of equality with their brethren of other communities. What caused them additional sorrow was the

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